

Dear Commissioners,

I've written you all separately on several occasions about the dangers of media consolidation and removing the Fairness Doctrine. I predicted the situation would only grow worse and it has.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

I am a former CBS News staffer and have seen the drastic changes in the fairness of the media. My former boss, Walter Cronkite, has spoken many times on the dangers of a consolidated media.

We are now become what we most derided in the Soviet Union. A one-stop, one-sided, imbalanced portrait of America.

You have a job to do. The dangers of hearing only one side is that, when your time comes, there will be no one to report your side.